

SOUTH CAROLINA WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING

Issue Workshop

Issue Workshop: In-Migration

Priority Issue Statement:

Federal allocations of resources to address the Medicaid eligible population and other services for the older population need to more aggressively take into account the rapid in-migration of the retiring population among the states, rather than basing allocations only on census data.

Barriers:

1. Categorical allocations for services from federal level limit the ability of the states to address locally documented needs.
2. Precedents, or “that is the way things have always been done,” hinder progress.
3. Dependence on outdated census data prevents equitable resource distribution in the “between Census” years, especially in fast growing states.
4. Opening the discussion of resource allocation usually sets in motion opposition from the various special interest groups.
5. The resistance of Congress to work on a bipartisan basis prevents the achievement of positive change.
6. The complexity of the issues requires significant expenditure of time to achieve satisfactory solutions.

Solutions:

1. The federal government shall allow states greater flexibility to address state and local level needs with budget appropriations.
2. For a more favorable allocation of federal resources, the method to determine each states’ allocation of federal funds shall be updated on a mid-decade basis.
3. Encourage more active participation of the private sector as arbiters and consensus builders in the political process of finding solutions to aging issues.